

Paul Danton Huish *et al.*  
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PATENT

B1  
sub  
C1

1. (Once amended) A granular or powdered detergent composition having reduced di-salt formation, comprising:

first particles comprising  $\alpha$ -sulfofatty acid ester; and  
second particles comprising additional detergent components that cause more than a minor amount of additional di-salt formation, the second particles having a free moisture content of less than about 6 weight percent;

the first particles post-added to the second particles, whereby the first and second particles are commingled, but remain physically distinct.

B2  
sub  
C3

5. (Once amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the second particles further comprise a builder, a nonionic surfactant, a secondary anionic surfactant, a polymer dispersant, an oxidizing agent, a biocidal agent, a foam regulator, a binder, an anticaking agent, an activator, a catalyst, a thickener, a stabilizer, a fragrance, a soil suspending agent, a soil release agent, a filler, a brightener, a UV protectant, an enzyme, or a mixture thereof.

B3

7. (Once amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the free moisture content of the second particles is between about 1 to about 3 weight percent.

9. (Twice amended) A granular or powdered  $\alpha$ -sulfofatty acid ester detergent composition, comprising:

detergent particles comprising at least one detergent component that causes more than a minor amount of additional di-salt formation; and

$\alpha$ -sulfofatty acid ester particles which are post-added to the detergent particles;

B4  
sub  
C4

the  $\alpha$ -sulfofatty acid particles ester post-added to the detergent particles, whereby the  $\alpha$ -sulfofatty acid ester particles and detergent particles are commingled, but remain physically distinct in the detergent composition, and whereby additional di-salt formation is reduced.

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B4/pub 4  
10. (Once amended) The composition of claim 9, wherein the  $\alpha$ -sulfofatty acid ester particles are a powder.

pub C5  
13. (Once amended) The composition of claim 9, wherein the detergent particles further comprise a builder, a nonionic surfactant, a secondary anionic surfactant, a polymer dispersant, an oxidizing agent, a biocidal agent, a foam regulator, a binder, an anticaking agent, an activator, a catalyst, a thickener, a stabilizer, a fragrance, a soil suspending agent, a filler, a brightener, a UV protectant, an enzyme, or a mixture thereof.

14. (Once amended) The composition of claim 9, further comprising an adjuvant particles.

15. (Once amended) The composition of claim 14, wherein the adjuvant particles comprise an enzyme, a fragrance or an oxidizing agent.

B5  
16. (Once amended) A granular or powdered  $\alpha$ -sulfofatty acid ester detergent prepared by:  
providing at least one detergent component that causes more than a minor amount of additional di-salt formation;  
forming the at least one detergent component by granulating, spray drying or agglomerating into detergent particles; and  
post-adding a powdered or agglomerated  $\alpha$ -sulfofatty acid ester to the detergent portion so that the  $\alpha$ -sulfofatty acid ester and detergent particles are commingled, but remain physically distinct; whereby the amount of the di-salt formation is reduced.

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17. (Twice amended) The composition of claim 16, wherein the  $\alpha$ -sulfofatty acid ester is free of components that cause more than a minor amount of additional di-salt formation.

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18. (Once Amended) The composition of claim 16, further prepared by:  
reducing the free moisture content of the detergent particles to between  
about 1 to about 6 weight percent.

19. (Once Amended) The composition of claim 16, wherein the  
detergent particles are a powder, pellets, beads, or granules.

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